Southern Plains Drought Outlook Summary

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National Weather Service

Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX

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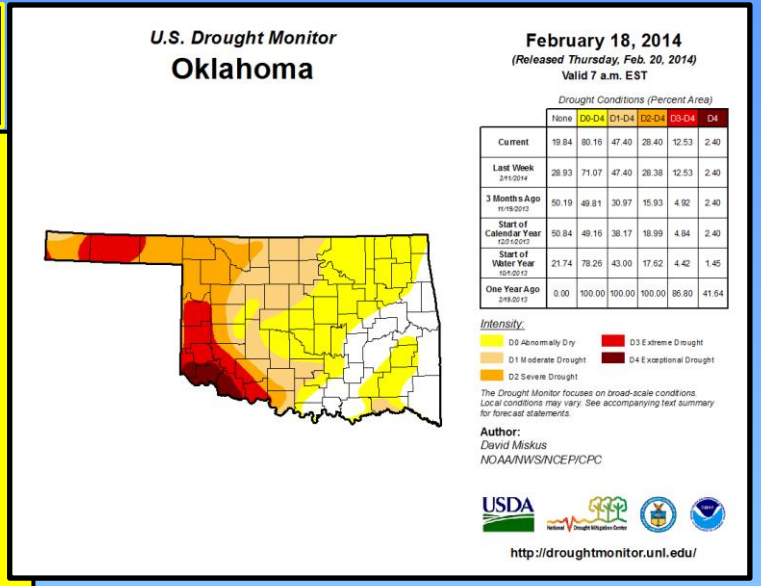
Current Drought Situation

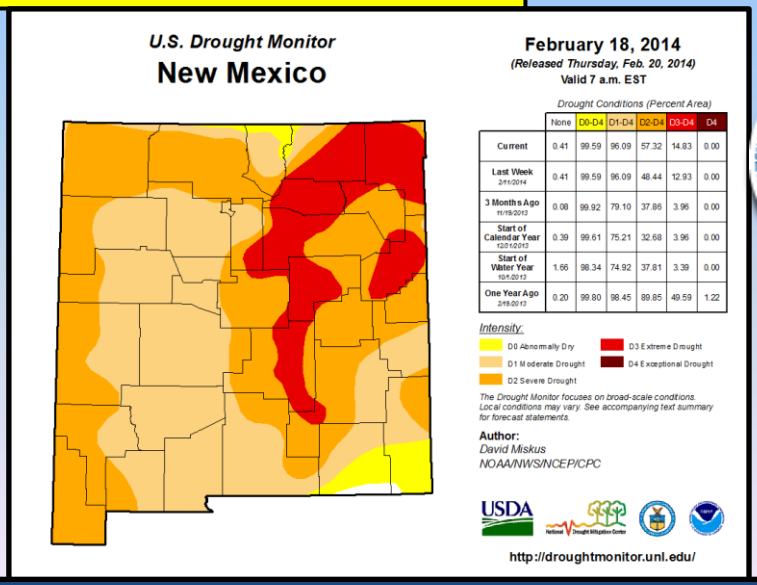
- **Oklahoma** The amount of OK in extreme drought has tripled since January 1st.
- **New Mexico** January 2014 was the driest January on record going back to 1895. Amount of NM in extreme drought has tripled since January 1st.
- **Texas** January 2014 was the 5th driest January going back to 1895 (and driest January since 1971). Amount of TX in drought and severe drought has increased by 30% since January 1st.



For Southern Plains Drought Monitor go to:
http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home

Current/Ongoing Drought Impacts

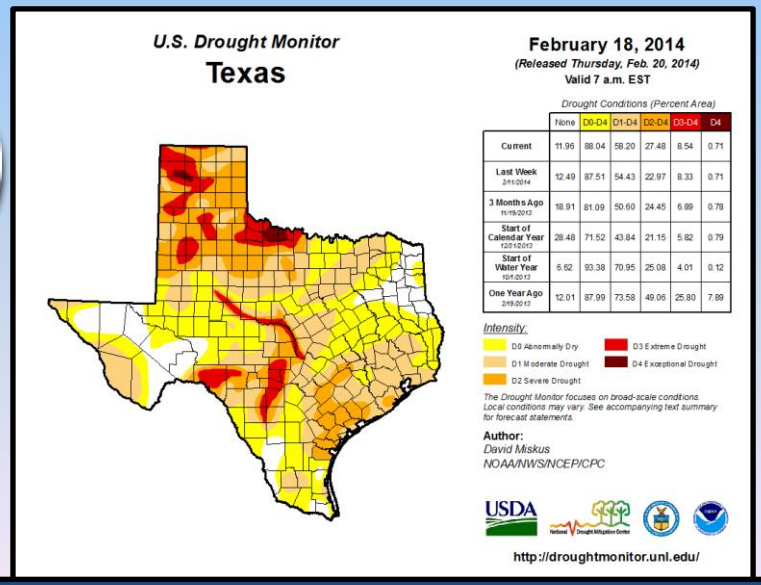
- **New Mexico**: Despite near record September wetness, 3 of the 4 largest reservoirs remain 17% or less of storage capacity. The largest, Elephant Butte, is at only 17% of capacity.
- **Texas**: Long-term (hydrologic) drought remains for the state as a whole. Statewide reservoir capacity is only at 64% of capacity, the lowest ever for this time of year since 1990. Water releases to rice farmers in jeopardy of being cut off for third straight year. Persistent drought in northwest TX has resulted in the City of Wichita Falls declaring a Drought Disaster.
- **Oklahoma**: Lake Altus in southwest Oklahoma at less than 12% of capacity.



NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

NIDIS
NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM



Website: http://www.srh.noaa.gov **Twitter:** @NWS_Southern_US
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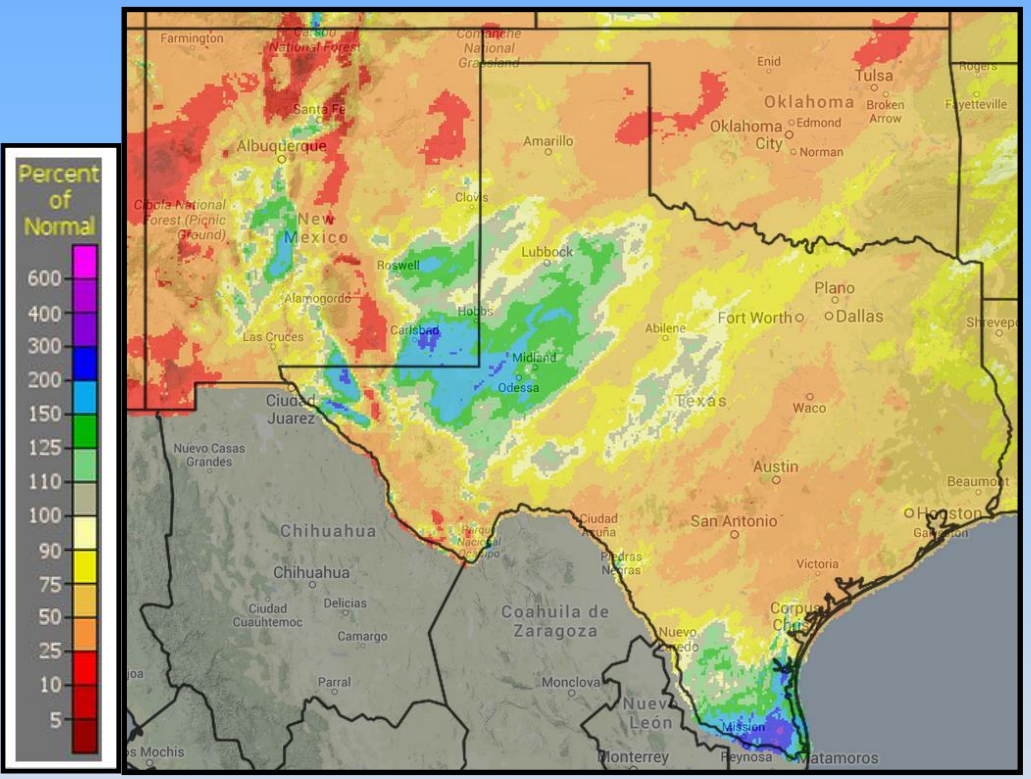
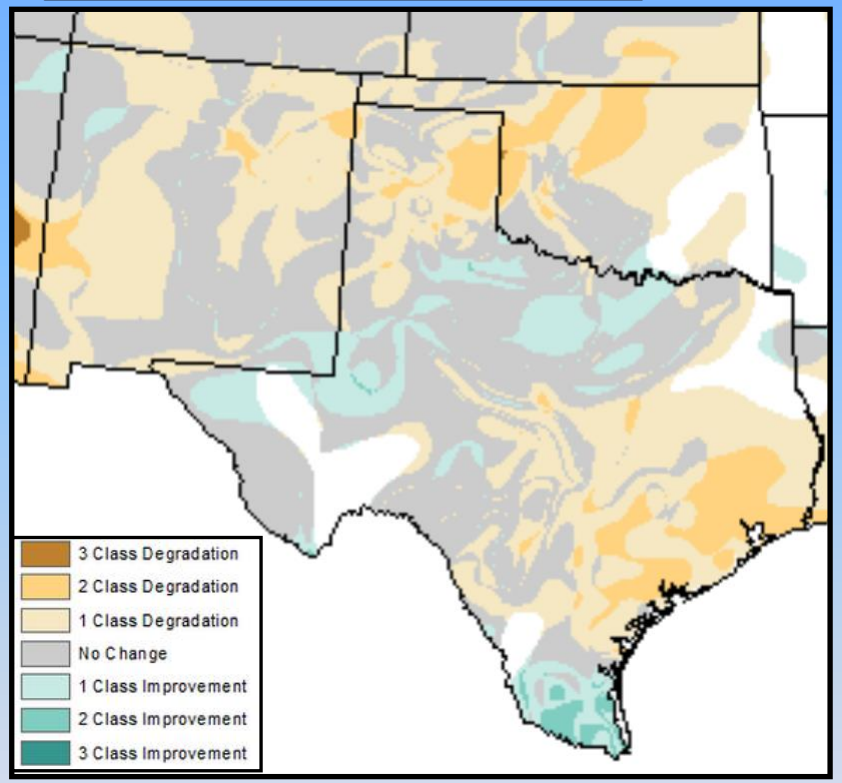
Percent of Normal Precipitation Over the Past 3 Months (Since November 26, 2013)



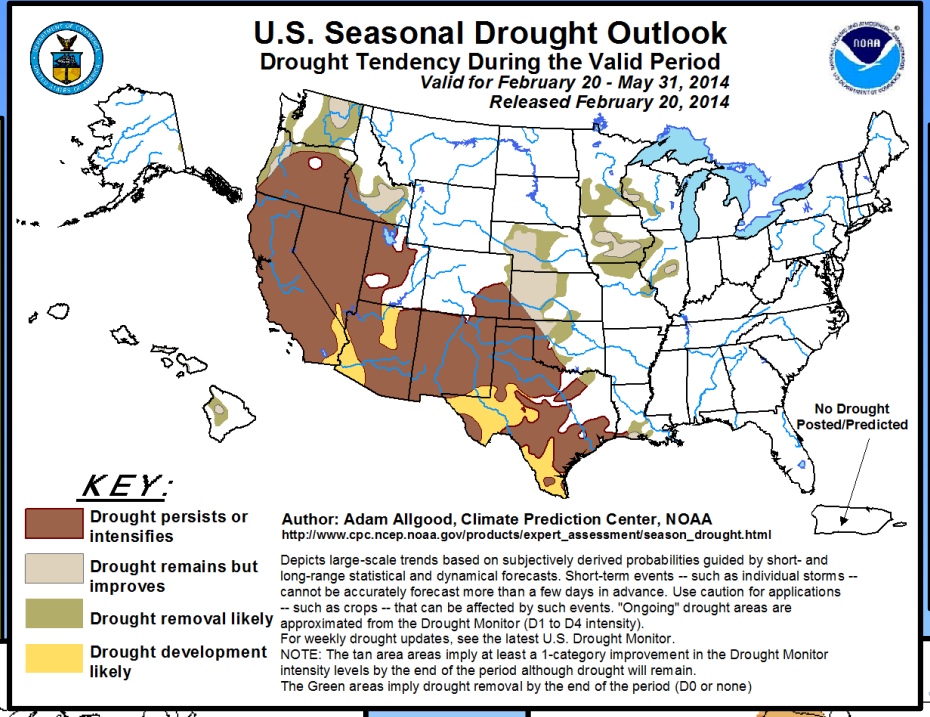
Change in the Drought Over the Past 3 Months (Since November 26, 2013)



Overall, all 3 states experienced a much drier than normal winter (except for Deep South TX and portions of Far West TX), which has resulted in general worsening of drought conditions heading into the all important spring months. On average, rainfall amounts in TX and OK increase dramatically in the spring. Seeing at least normal rainfall in TX and OK by June will be critical in averting continued drought degradation.

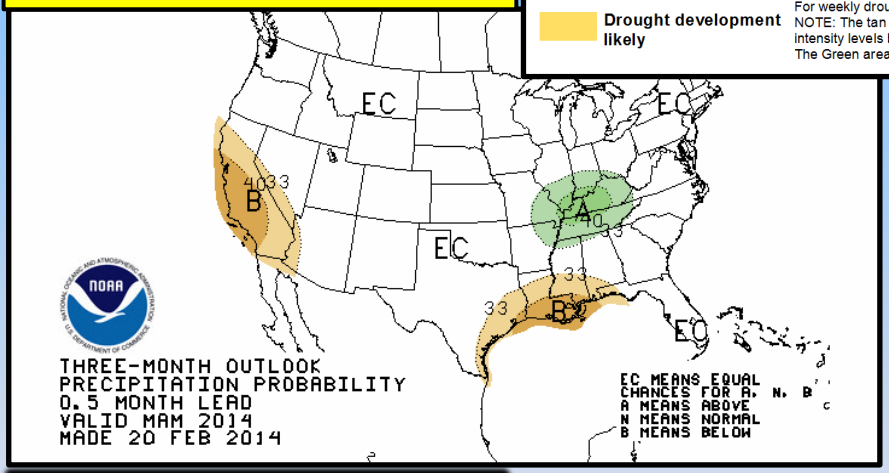
3-month Outlook Precipitation

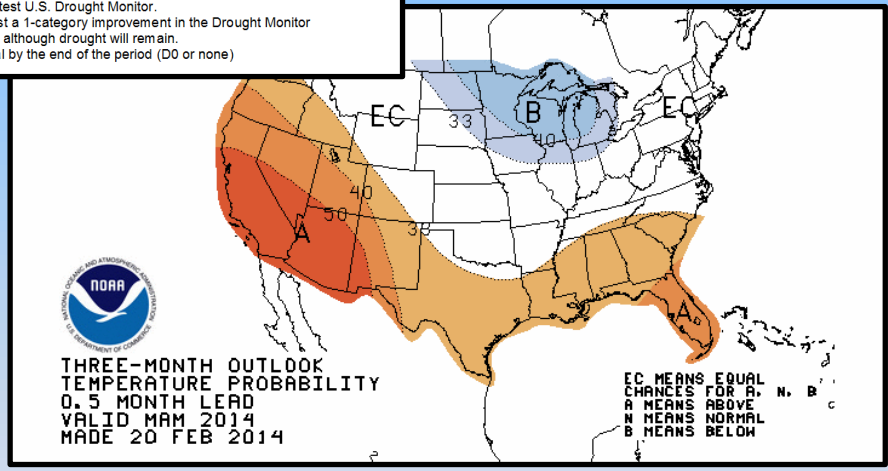
- Equal chances of below, above, or near normal precipitation expected across all 3 states.
- Generally, the spring months are relatively dry for NM. Usually, TX and OK see significant increases in rain during May.
- High probability of drought redeveloping and/or worsening across NM and south TX and west TX.



3-month Outlook Temperature

- Increased chances for above normal temperatures for all of NM and TX. Equal chances of above, below, or near normal temps for OK.
- Increased Evaporation of any rain that does fall is likely with higher temperatures … further exacerbating surface reservoir water deficits.





Southern Plains Drought Summary

- **January was very dry, with NM having its driest ever, and TX and OK having their 5th and 8th driest respectively, going back to 1895. February has also been dry & all three states have seen significant deterioration in drought conditions since mid January.**
- **Drought to persist or worsen in NM and much of south and west TX and western OK.**
- **Drought forecast to redevelop across portions of far west TX and south TX.**

Information provided by:
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This information along with other drought resources also available on the Southern Plains drought.gov web portal

http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home